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Reference N.97220 SLS	Application No./Patent No. 04771674.1 - 2319 / 1656880 PCT/JP2004011707
Applicant/Proprietor Sony Corporation	

Communication

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 153(7) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

2 additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 9 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



**SUPPLEMENTARY
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number
EP 04 77 1674

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	WO 01/52718 A (HEALTHETECH INC [US]) 26 July 2001 (2001-07-26)	1-3, 9, 11-13, 18-20 10	INV. A61B5/00 A61B5/16
Y	* page 4, line 18 - page 7, line 19 * * page 9, lines 14-21 * * page 11, line 4 - page 13, line 5 * * page 17, lines 12-22 * * page 19, line 20 - page 25, line 16 * * page 34, lines 1-13 * * figures 1,2,5 *		
Y	----- WO 03/022144 A (CARDIOPAC [US]) 20 March 2003 (2003-03-20) * page 5, lines 7-14 * * page 7, line 23 - page 10, line 22 *	10	
D, A	----- JP 2002 282227 A (OSAKA GAS CO LTD) 2 October 2002 (2002-10-02) * abstract; figures 1,3,5,7,8 *	3, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61B
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
3	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Munich	26 March 2009	Rapp, Alexander
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document			
T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 04 77 1674

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-3, 9-13, 18-20

Invention I relates to an image displaying system and method comprising as potential special technical features the measurement of bio-information and environmental information as well as details relating to data transmission between an information acquiring device and an image display device.

2. claims: 1 part, 4-6, 11 part, 14-16, 19 part, 21-23

Invention II relates to an image displaying system and method comprising as potential special technical features means for receiving bio- and environmental information on a plurality of persons and for generating images reflecting the relation in information about the plurality of persons.

3. claims: 1 part, 7, 8, 11 part, 17, 19 part, 24

Invention III relates to an image displaying system and method comprising as potential special technical features touch detecting means, touch signal sending means and cutaneous-stimulus giving means.

1.) Invention I relates to an image displaying system and method comprising as potential special technical features the measurement of bio-information and environmental information as well as details relating to data transmission between an information acquiring device and an image display device. These features solve the technical problem of enhancing the reliability of remote monitoring of a patient.

Invention II relates to an image displaying system and method comprising as potential special technical features means for receiving bio- and environmental information on a plurality of persons and for generating images reflecting the relation in information about the plurality of persons. These features solve the technical problem of facilitating the monitoring of group behaviour.

Invention III relates to an image displaying system and method comprising as potential special technical features touch detecting means, touch signal sending means and cutaneous-stimulus giving means. These features solve the technical problem of providing for a more intuitive handling of the displaying system.

2.) The common features of inventions I, II, and III are defined in claims 1, 11, and 19 and are known from document D1 (W001/52718 A2) which discloses an image displaying system (fig. 1) comprising: a bio-information acquiring device (10) including a means for measuring bio-information (78) on a person under measurement and a means for

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 04 77 1674

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

sending the bio-information (44, p. 11, l. 19-21); and an image display device (24) including a receiving means for receiving the bio-information, an image generating means for generating an image on the basis of the bio-information and a display means for displaying the image (fig. 5), wherein the bio-information acquiring device and image display device are located in different places and connected to each other via a network (fig. 1).

Claim 11 relates to substantially the same subject-matter as claim 1 whereas claim 19 describes a standard method of use implicitly disclosed in D1.

The three inventions do hence not have any potential special technical features in common and solve three different technical problems. They hence lack a technical relationship required by Rule 44 EPC, and the requirement for unity of invention referred to in Article 82 EPC is not fulfilled.

3.) In accordance with Rule 164(1) EPC the supplementary search report has been drawn up on those parts of the application which relate to the invention, or group of inventions, first mentioned in the claims.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 77 1674

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-03-2009

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0152718	A	26-07-2001	CA EP JP US US	2397133 A1 1250085 A2 2004509652 T 2003065257 A1 2001049470 A1	26-07-2001 23-10-2002 02-04-2004 03-04-2003 06-12-2001
WO 03022144	A	20-03-2003	CA EP	2459927 A1 1434518 A1	20-03-2003 07-07-2004
JP 2002282227	A	02-10-2002		NONE	